



# Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex

*FLATHEAD, HELENA, LEWIS & CLARK  
AND LOLO NATIONAL FORESTS*

## Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex

**FIRE UPDATE: Wednesday August 29, 2012**

(See [Inciweb maps](#) for locations)

**Elbow Pass Complex** Spotted Bear Ranger District, Lewis and Clark National Forest. 20,227 acres. The fire area received spotty precipitation Monday night which knocked down some of the tree torching that occurred on Monday. Heat continues to be along the western perimeter in Rapid Creek, Dry Fork Blackfoot, with lesser amounts in the Green Fork and So. Fork Sun River areas. Fire was reported to be creeping and smoldering with only 45 acre increase in fire size. Fire managers did a reconnaissance flight over the fire and an infrared flight occurred at night to map heat sources.

Fire Update: A Red Flag Warning continues through midnight tonight. Temperatures will be cooler but gusty winds and low relative humidity combine to create critical fire conditions. Fire activity is expected in the Dry Fork and Rapid creek areas along west-facing slopes where heat sources exist. Spread is not expected in the Green Fork area because it abuts the 1988 Canyon Creek fire. The areas of heat in the So. Fork Sun River may continue to creep into unburned fuels but minimal spread is likely. Firefighters will be modifying the sprinkler system that has been placed in the Ellis Creek drainage as contingency if fire behavior increases in the So. Fork of the Sun River. Firefighters remain in the Danaher and Cabin areas monitoring the fire and to provide structure protection if needed. The three lookouts are staffed today. Fire managers are prepared to assist with initial attack as requested. <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3066/>

**Wedge Creek Fire** Seeley Lake Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, 1,247 acres. This fire is burning in steep terrain, heavy timber and around rock outcroppings in a remote un-roaded area about two miles south of the Scapegoat Wilderness boundary. The fire is producing a smoke column visible from highway 200. A Red Flag weather warning will remain in effect until midnight tonight for gusty winds and low humidities across the eastern Lolo Forest. Winds are forecasted to be from the southwest at 15 to 20 mph with gusts to 30. Such winds will push the fire to the north east into the previously burned Conger Fire area that occurred in 2007 which has very sparse vegetation and will not result in any significant spread if the fire gets established in that area. Minimum humidities will reach 12 to 22 percent. This cold front passage is forecasted to increase fire activity and may produce significant smoke column development as more of the fire perimeter will become active. No water or retardant drops were used yesterday. Due to heavy fuel loadings with intermittent bug-killed trees, steep slopes and inaccessible terrain it is unsafe to have crews on the ground. Generally, the fire has burned approximately 100 acres daily since it was discovered. At this time, actions will be to continue to engage the fire in a way that will not place firefighters in danger. No private structures or property are currently threatened by the fire.

Today's Plan: The Incident Commander will continue with daily helicopter reconnaissance flights observing the fire. A GPS perimeter data was collected yesterday. Actions will continue to engage the fire in a way that will not place firefighters in danger and utilize aircraft to observe and engage the fire as necessary. [.Inciweb Wedge Creek](#)

**East Fork Fire** Lincoln Ranger District, Helena National Forest, 30 acres. There remains active fire behavior with surface burning and some isolated tree torching, all of which is still within the boundary of the Scapegoat Wilderness in contiguous sub-alpine fir and dense, dead timber stands. The strategy remains to safely manage this fire for suppression within the Wilderness boundary, primarily containing the southern flank and preventing further spread to the south.

Today fire personnel will continue to monitor the fire activity, but due to safety purposes there will not be any direct attack on the fireline. Safety is the #1 priority for all incidents. Due to the many safety concerns—which include a lack of escape routes, no nearby accessible safety zone, predicted weather conditions, steep terrain, dense, heavy timber and snags in and around the fire area, and active fire behavior—the decision was made that no firefighters will be placed on the fireline at this time. A Red Flag Warning is still in effect until midnight tonight for gusty winds that could impact fire behavior. Today, temperatures could reach the mid-70s and relative humidity levels at 17-22% with gusty west winds at 10-20 mph and gusts up to 35 mph.

<http://inciweb.org/incident/3203/>

**Stonewall Fire** Lincoln Ranger District, Helena National Forest, 12 acres. With the assistance from helicopter water drops yesterday, fire crews were able to make significant progress in the containment and mop-up of the Stonewall Fire yesterday. The fire remains at about 12 acres and is now 50% contained.

Today, crews will continue to do saw work, dig fireline around the rest of the perimeter, mop-up and grid for any other spot fires around the area. Helicopters are available to assist, if needed. The fire was ignited by lightning from a thunderstorm that came through the area at about 3 p.m. on Monday, and is located on the Helena National Forest-Lincoln Ranger District about a mile south of the Stonewall Lookout. A Red Flag Warning is still in effect until midnight tonight for gusty winds that could impact fire behavior. Today, temperatures could reach the mid-70s and relative humidity levels at 17-22% with gusty west winds at 10-20 mph and gusts up to 35 mph. <http://inciweb.org/incident/3214/>

**Prisoner Lake Fire** Spotted Bear Ranger District, Flathead National Forest -. Last update was 8-16-12, no further updates until conditions and/or fire behavior significantly changes. Fire history and past information is at:

<http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3065/>

**Falls Point Fire** Seeley Lake Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, 203 Acres –As of August 16<sup>th</sup> the Falls Point Fire has been added to the Elbow Pass Complex. Elbow Pass Complex fire information: <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3067/>

**Meadow Creek Fire** 8/23/12 was the final update for this fire; no further updates unless fire conditions change. Fire history and past information is available from : [Inciweb Meadow Creek](#)

# **Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex – Trail Closures**

**As of August 26th, 2012**

## **Lewis & Clark National Forest**

Trail Closures for Elbow Pass Complex:

- South Fork Sun River Trail # 202 (The portion of the trail south of the South Fork Sun River Pack Bridge)
- Straight Creek Trail #212 (The portion of the trail north of Straight Creek Pass)
- Hoadley Creek trail #226
- Patrol Mountain Lookout Trail #213
- Ellis Creek Trail #227
- East Fork Ahorn Trail # 225 (The portion of the trail south of Grizzly Basin)
- Observation Pass Trail #246
- Elbow Pass Trail # 248
- Cigarette Rock Trail #247
- Green Fork Trail # 228
- Petty-Crown Trail #232
- Crown Mountain Trail #270
- Halfmoon Creek Trail #216
- Telephone Creek Trail #274

Trail closures for the Prisoner Lake fire -

- Trail # 211

## **Flathead National Forest**

Trail Closures: for Elbow Pass Fire Complex fire

- Area Closures are still in effect, refer to Flathead Area Closure map

Trail Closures for Prisoner Lake fire

- Molly Creek Trail # 138,
- So. Fork White River Trail # 380
- Haystack Mtn Trail # 626 ---

Trail Closures for Condon Mtn fire

- Trail #29, the Smith-Little Salmon Trail

## **Seeley Lake Ranger District, Lolo National Forest**

Trail Closures for Wedge Creek and Meadow Creek fires:

- Fenn Mountain Trail #88 -- the entire trail, beginning in T 16 N, R 12 W, Section 3.
- Conger Point Trail #468 -- the entire trail, beginning in T 17 N, R 11 W, Section 31.
- Dwight Creek Trail #414 -- from the junction with Conger Point Trail #468 to Omar Mountain T 17 N, R 12 W, Section 14.
- Conger Creek Trail #403 -- from the junction with Conger Point Trail #468 T 17 N, R12 W, Sec. 23 to the junction with Canyon Point Trail #1437 T17 N, R 11 W, Sec. 29.

**Lolo National Forest:**

## Description of Closed Areas:

From the North Fork Cabin, T 17 N, R 10 W, Sec. 29, northwest along the Dry Fork trail #31, but not including the Dry Fork trail #31, to the junction with Canyon-Falls Creek trail #16; thence southwest along the Falls-Canyon Trail #16, but not including the Falls-Canyon trail #16 to the Scapegoat Wilderness boundary in T 17 N, R 11 W, Sec. 28; thence north and west along the Scapegoat Wilderness boundary through Canyon Point and Omar Mountain to the boundary with the Flathead National Forest, Spotted Bear Ranger District; thence northeast along the Forest boundary through Danaher Mountain and Concord Mountain to Triple Divide; thence southeast along the Continental Divide through Flint Mountain and Scapegoat Mountain to the junction of Cave Creek trail #1217; thence west and south along the Cave Creek trail #1217, but not including the Cave Creek trail #1217, to the junction with the Hobnail Tom trail #32; thence south along the Hobnail Tom trail #32, but not including the Hobnail Tom trail #32, southwest to the junction with the Cooney Creek trail #406; thence southeast along the Cooney Creek trail #406, and including the Cooney Creek trail #406 to the boundary with the Helena National Forest, Lincoln Ranger District; thence south and west along the Forest boundary through Olson Peak and Galusha Peak to the junction with the East Fork trail #481 in T 17 N, R 10 W, Sec. 27; thence northwest along the East Fork trail #481, and including the East Fork trail #481 to the junction with the Hobnail Tom trail #32; thence west along the Hobnail Tom trail #32 to the junction with the North Fork Cabin.

**Helena National Forest**

## Trail Closures for East Fork fire:

- Arrastra/Porcupine Basin Trail #484: entire trail
- Trail #448: entire trail
- Dry Creek/Meadow Creek Trail #483: from beginning in T15N, R10W, Sec 17 to southern shore of Meadow Lake trail in T16N, R9W, Sec 18.